

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING  
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NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23508

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TWO-DIMENSIONAL FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS  
OF RECTANGULAR PANEL WITH HOLE USING NICE/SPAR

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JW

By

Zia Razzaq, Principal Investigator,

Venkatesh Prasad, Graduate Student,

and

Siva Prasad Darbhamulla, Graduate Student

Progress Report

For the period ended December 31, 1986

Prepared for the  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Langley Research Center  
Hampton, Virginia 23665

Under  
Research Grant NAG-1-438  
Dr. Olaf O. Storaasli, and  
Dr. W. Jefferson Stroud, Technical Monitors  
SSD-Structural Mechanics Branch

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P.O. Box 6369

Norfolk, Virginia 23508

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### A. Panel Geometry and Loading

A panel 30 in. long, 11.5 in. wide, with a 2.0 in. diameter hole at the center is analyzed. Since a two-dimensional analysis is conducted, the thickness of the panel is taken as unity. Figure 1 shows the panel and the applied compressive loading. Owing to the symmetry, it is sufficient to analyze only one-fourth of the panel with appropriate boundary conditions.

## B. Types of Discretizations

Figures 2 through 8 show the various types of discretizations investigated using E41 quadrilateral elements of NICE/SPAR. Figures 9 through 15 show the discretizations investigated using E31 triangular elements of NICE/SPAR. The triangular element discretization is obtained by simply adding a diagonal to each of the quadrilaterals. An enlarged view of the discretization near the hole is also given in each of these figures. Increasing number of elements are considered in order to conduct a systematic convergence study.

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### C. Isotropic Panel

The following material properties are adopted for the isotropic panel:

$$E = 10,000 \text{ ksi}$$

$$\nu = 0.3$$

which correspond to those of a typical aluminum alloy. Tables 1 and 2 present a summary of the results for the quadrilateral, and triangular isotropic elements. In these tables, the number of elements used for one-fourth of the panel, the total CPU time for each computer run, the largest principal compressive stress,  $\sigma_{\max}$ , and the corresponding element number are given. Figure 16 gives the graphical representation of the relationships between  $\sigma_{\max}$  and the number of finite elements used. Clearly, the triangular elements provide a better estimate of the maximum stress (whose theoretical limiting value is 3.0). Figure 17 shows the relationships between CPU time and the number of finite elements. The difference between the CPU time with 120 quadrilateral elements and 240 triangular elements is not dramatic. The information in Figures 16 and 17 leads to the conclusion that the triangular elements are more suitable than the quadrilateral ones, for the two-dimensional stress analysis problem considered here.

### D. Orthotropic Panel

The following material properties are adopted for the orthotropic panel:

$$E_x = 10,000 \text{ ksi}$$

$$E_y = 1,000 \text{ ksi}$$

$$\nu = 0.3$$

Tables 3 and 4 present a summary of the results for the quadrilateral and

triangular orthotropic elements. Figures 18, and 19 are the corresponding  $\sigma_{\max}$ , and CPU time versus the number of finite elements used, respectively. In this study, it is assumed that the NICE/SPAR program automatically accounts for the necessary transformations of material properties and stresses from the global to local coordinates and vice versa. Thus, the validity of the results for the orthotropic panel depends on the correctness or otherwise of this assumption. Figure 18 shows a significant difference between the  $\sigma_{\max}$  values for the quadrilateral and triangular discretizations. Figure 19 exhibits the same general character for the orthotropic panel as seen earlier in Figure 17 for the isotropic panel. Figure 20 shows how the value of  $\sigma_{\max}$  is affected due to a variation in the  $E_y/E_x$  ratio when 160 triangular elements are used. For  $E_y/E_x = 1.0$ , the  $\sigma_{\max}$  value from the plot agrees with that obtained earlier using the isotropic triangular discretization. For other  $E_y/E_x$  values in the range from 0.1 to 1.0, a smooth curve follows. However, the validity of this curve also depends on whether or not NICE/SPAR is handling the necessary transformations properly.

#### E. On-Going Study

A three-dimensional stress analysis near the hole as well as the use of substructuring and subsequent parallelization of computations are included in the present research activity.

#### F. Publication

A paper titled "Concurrent Processing for Nonlinear Analysis of Hollow Rectangular Structural Sections," by Siva P. Darbhamulla, Zia Razzaq, and Olaf O. Storaasli, has been accepted for publication in Engineering with Computers: An International Journal for Computer-aided Mechanical and Structural Engineering, 1987.

Table 1. Summary of results for rectangular panel with hole  
using E41 (NICE/SPAR) quadrilateral isotropic elements

Number of elements	C P U Time (secs)	Element No. with $\sigma_{\max}$	$\sigma_{\max}$ (ksi)
12	65.5	4	1.35
22	73.9	7	1.97
36	88.1	7	1.98
48	104.2	11	2.03
68	126.7	11	2.03
80	146.3	22	2.11
120	248.4	61	2.13

Table 2. Summary of results for rectangular panel with hole  
using E31 (NICE/SPAR) triangular isotropic elements

Number of elements	C P U Time (secs)	Element No with $\sigma_{\max}$	$\sigma_{\max}$ (ksi)
24	69.9	8	1.76
44	80.8	11	2.38
72	96.1	11	2.39
96	120.2	15	2.49
136	142.9	15	2.50
160	164.1	29	2.67
240	285.7	71	2.74

Table 3. Summary of results for rectangular panel with hole  
using E41 (NICE/SPAR) quadrilateral orthotropic elements

Number of elements	C P U Time (secs)	Element No. with $\sigma_{\max}$	$\sigma_{\max}$ (ksi)
12	68.6	5	1.47
22	78.4	7	1.60
36	88.7	7	1.62
48	105.5	13	1.64
68	127.1	13	1.61
80	146.7	25	1.66
120	243.7	72	1.95

NOTE:  $E_x = 10,000$  ksi ;  $E_y = 1,000$  ksi.



Table 4. Summary of results for rectangular panel with hole  
using E31 (NICE/SPAR) triangular orthotropic elements

Number of elements	C P U Time (secs)	Element No. with $\sigma_{\max}$	$\sigma_{\max}$ (ksi)
24	72.8	16	3.78
44	87.8	22	3.84
72	107.8	22	3.91
96	123.9	42	4.54
136	160.6	42	5.14
160	174.7	72	5.24
240	308.6	176	4.94

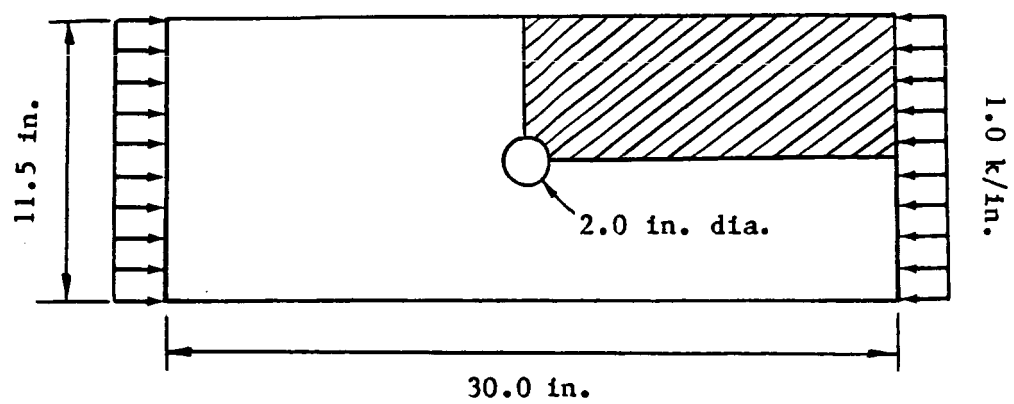


Figure 1. Panel geometry and loading

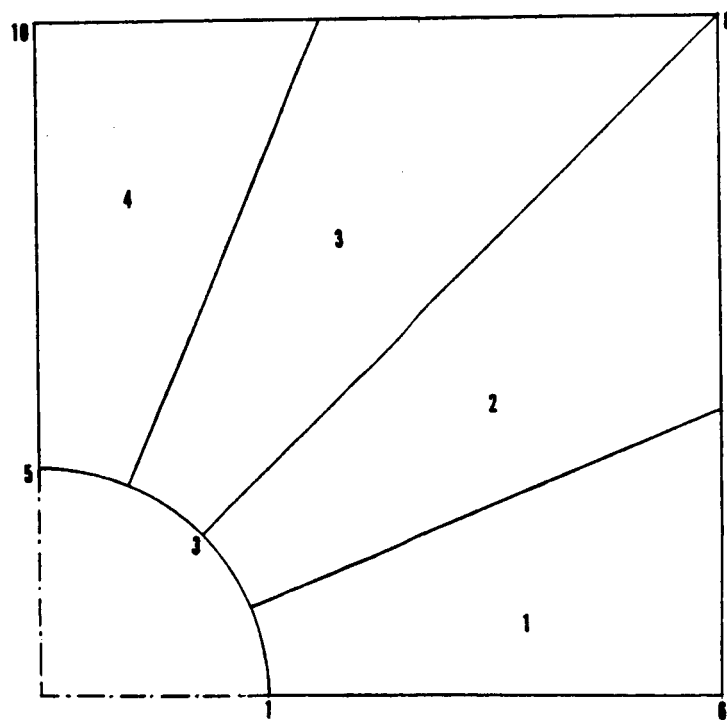
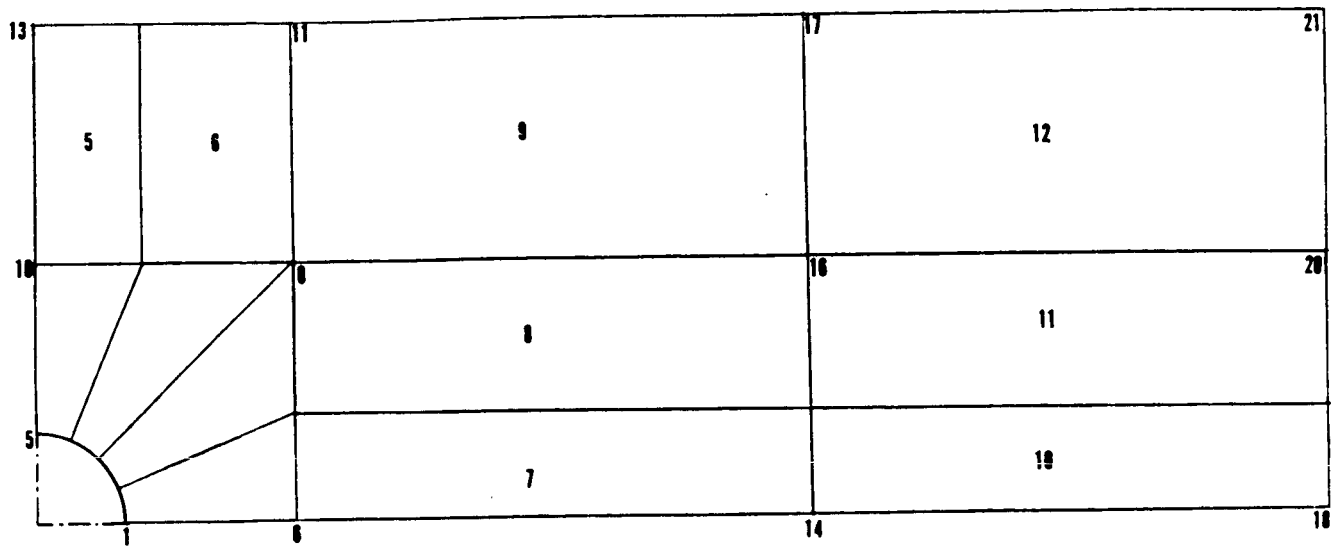


Figure 2. Discretization with 12 quadrilateral elements

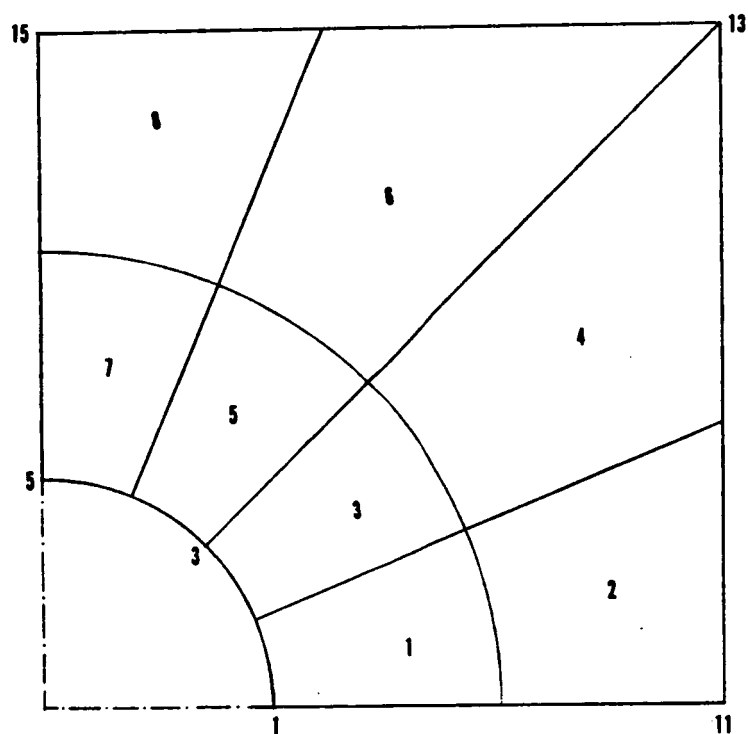
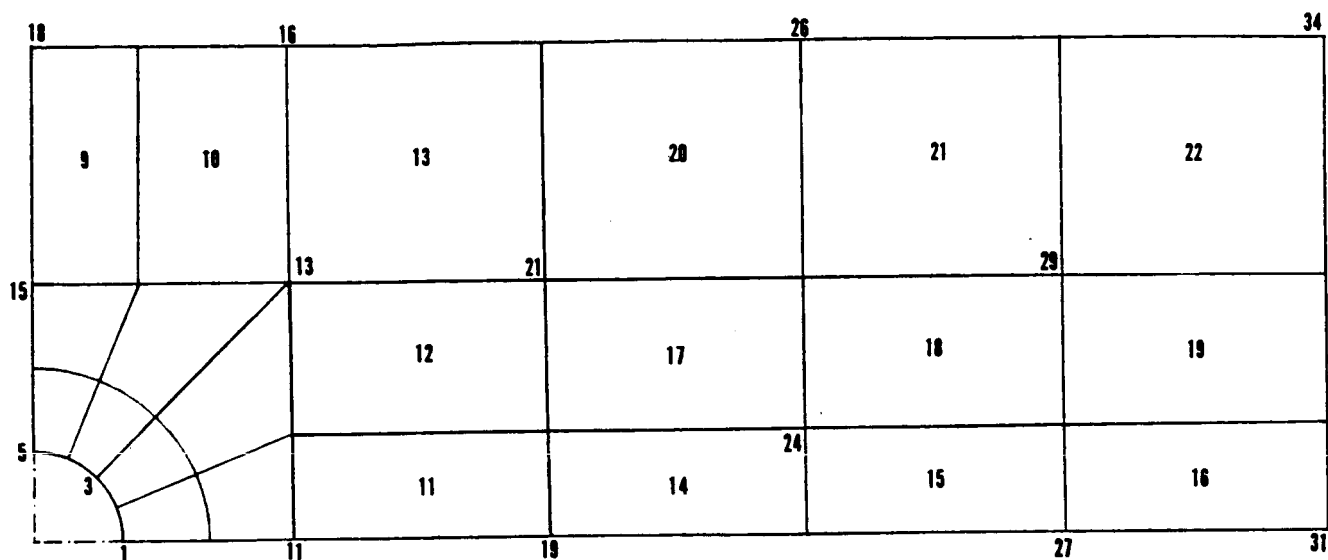


Figure 3. Discretization with 22 quadrilateral elements

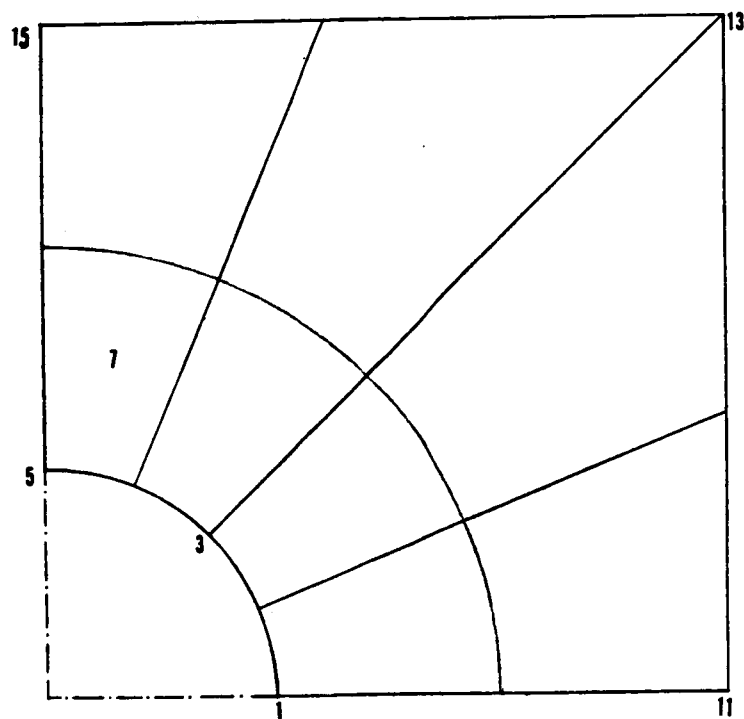
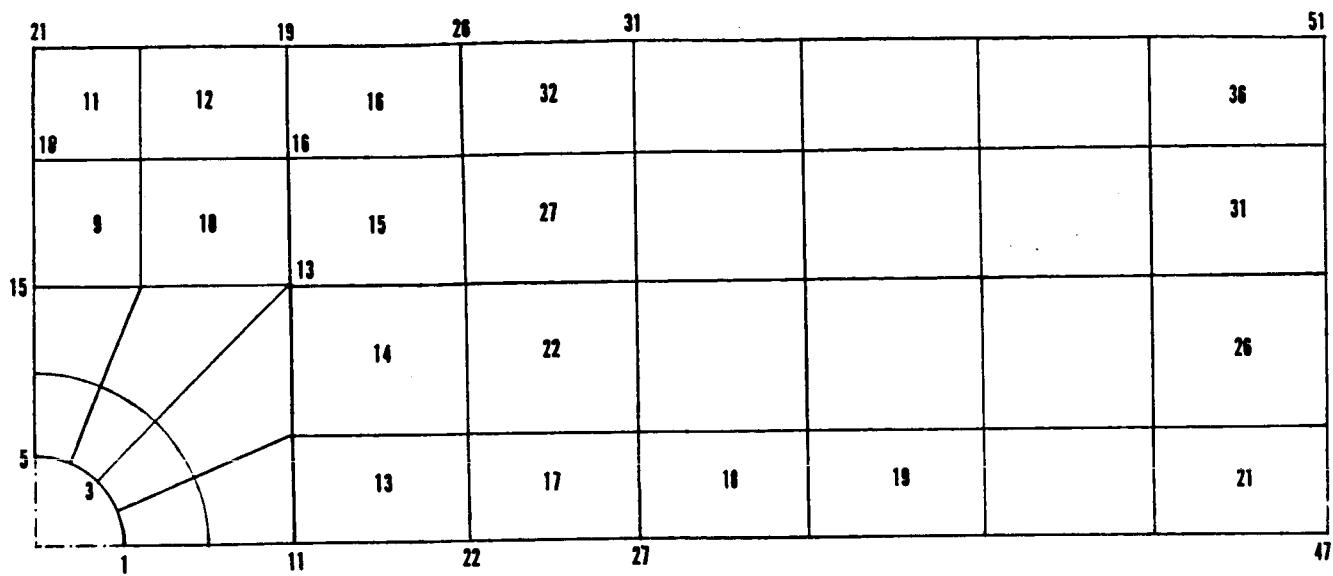


Figure 4. Discretization with 36 quadrilateral elements

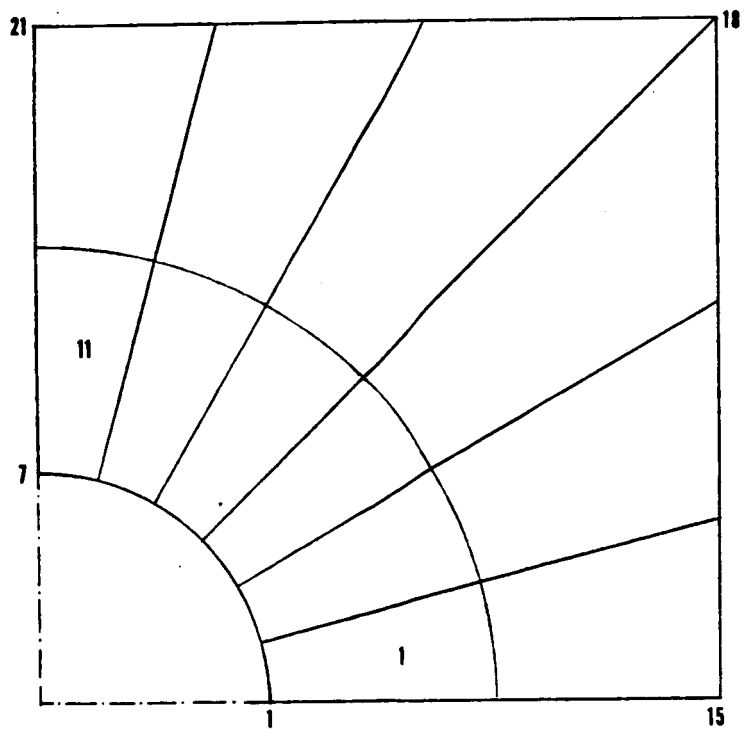
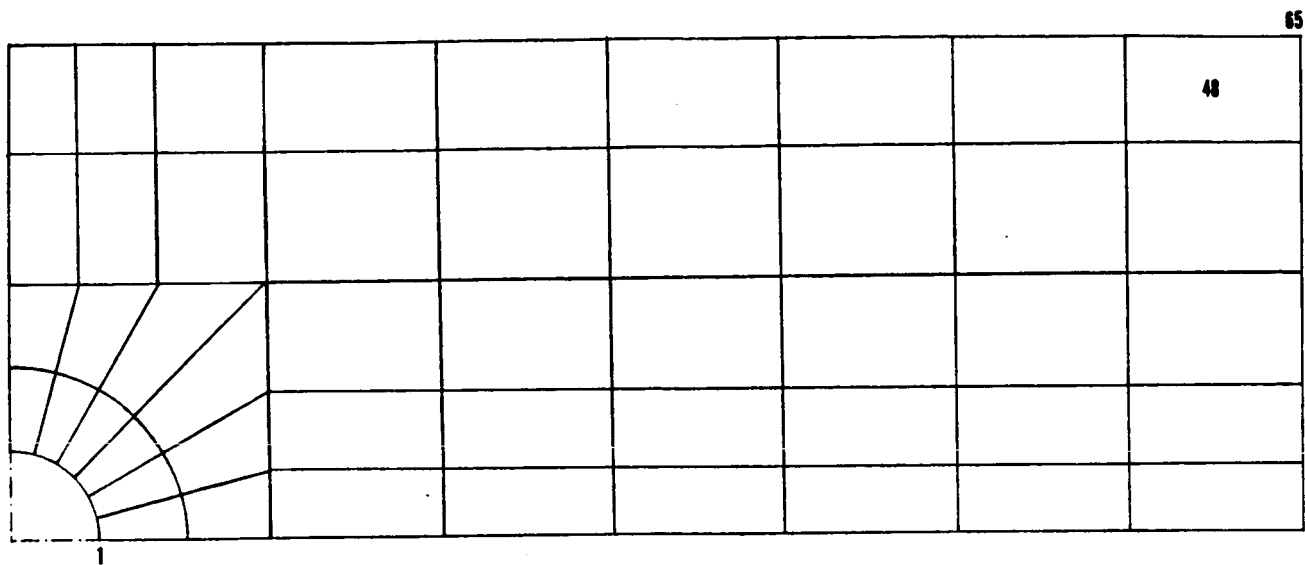


Figure 5. Discretization with 48 quadrilateral elements

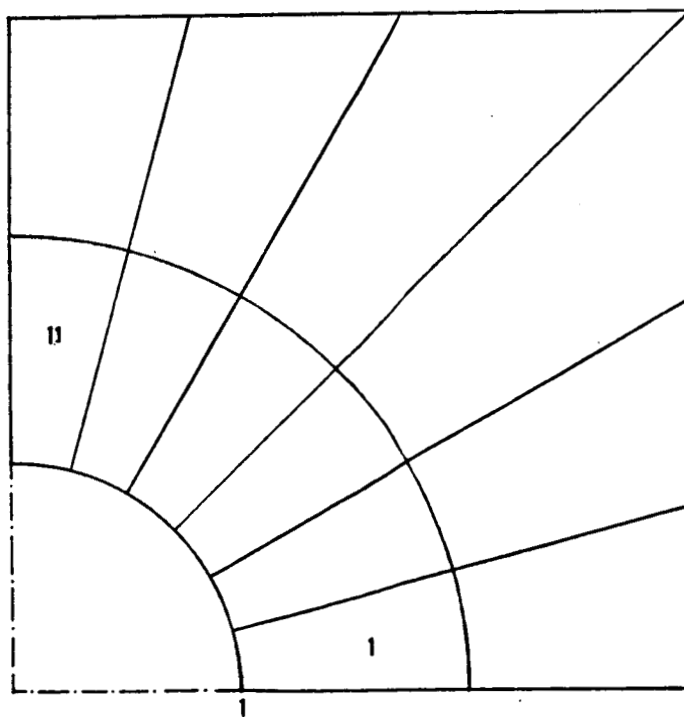
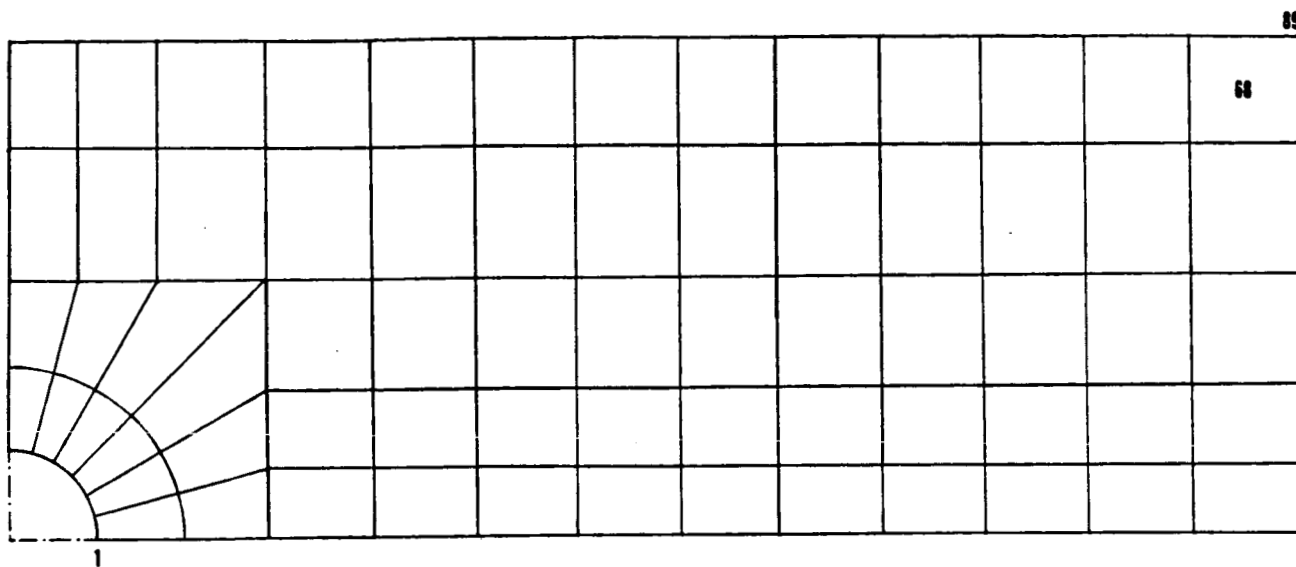


Figure 6. Discretization with 68 quadrilateral elements

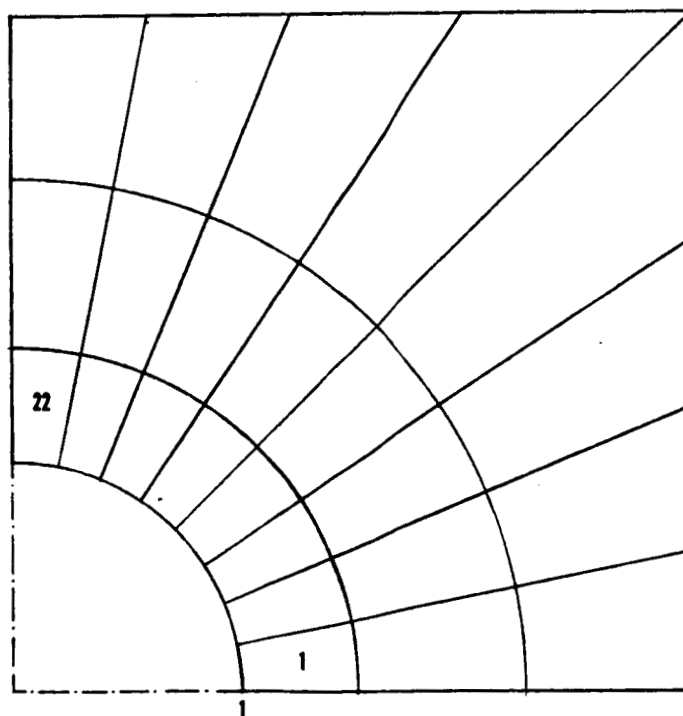
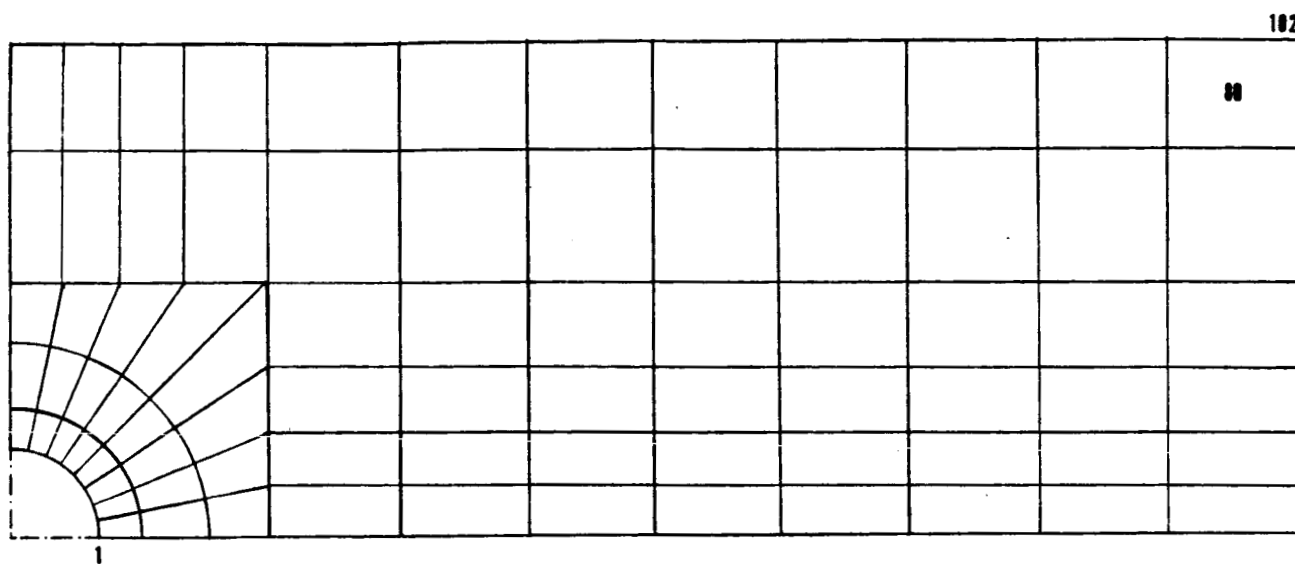


Figure 7. Discretization with 80 quadrilateral elements



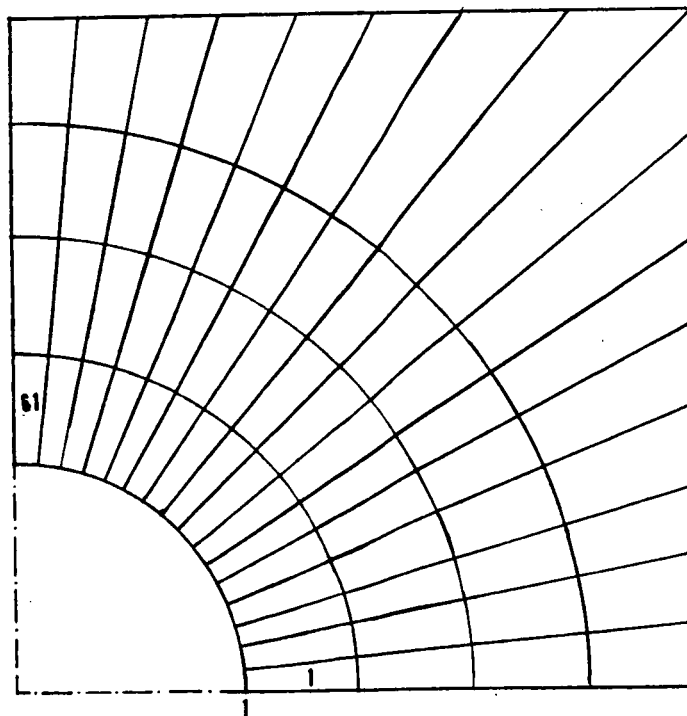
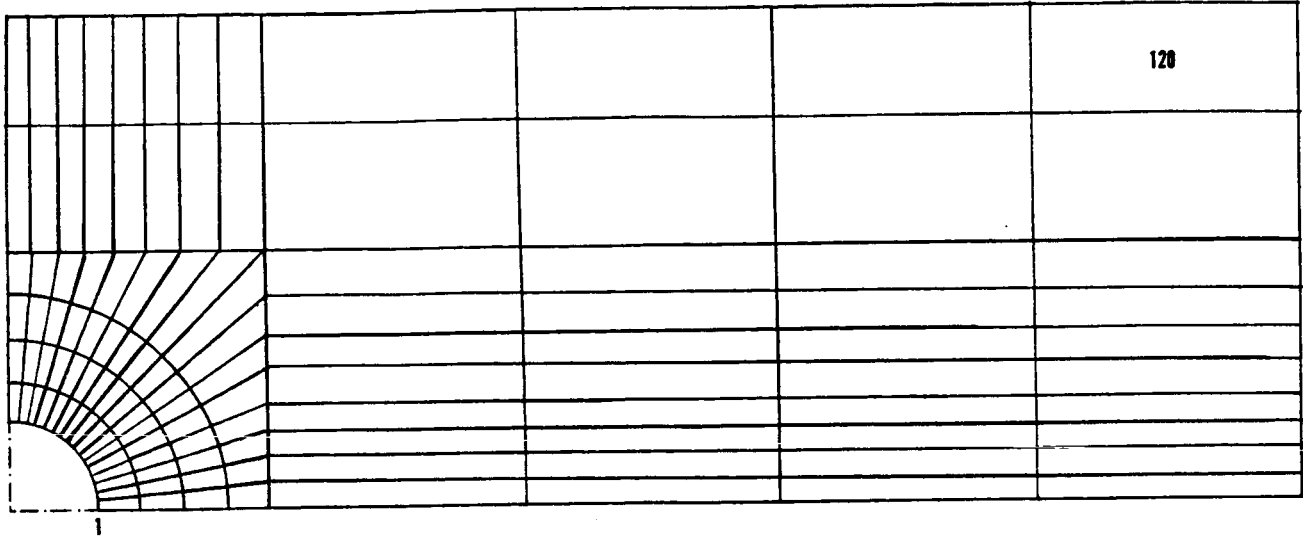


Figure 8. Discretization with 120 quadrilateral elements

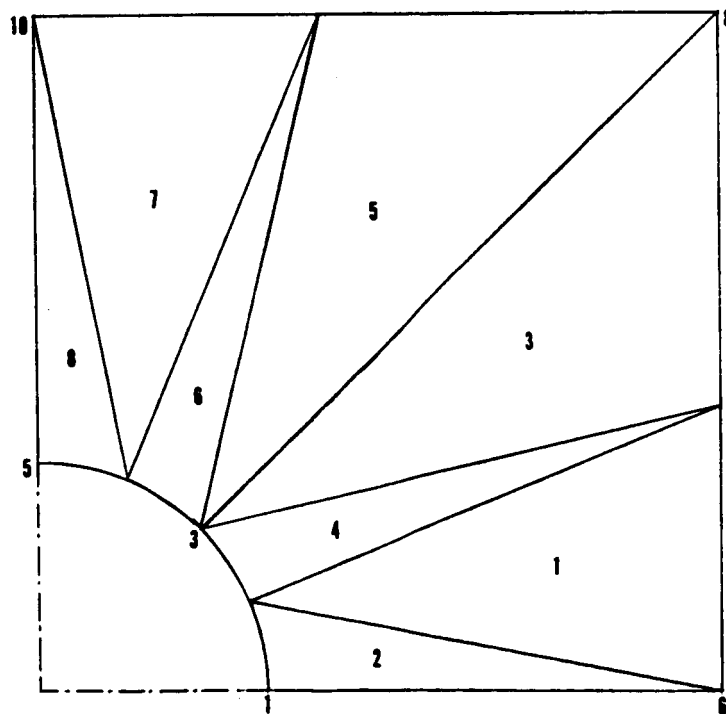
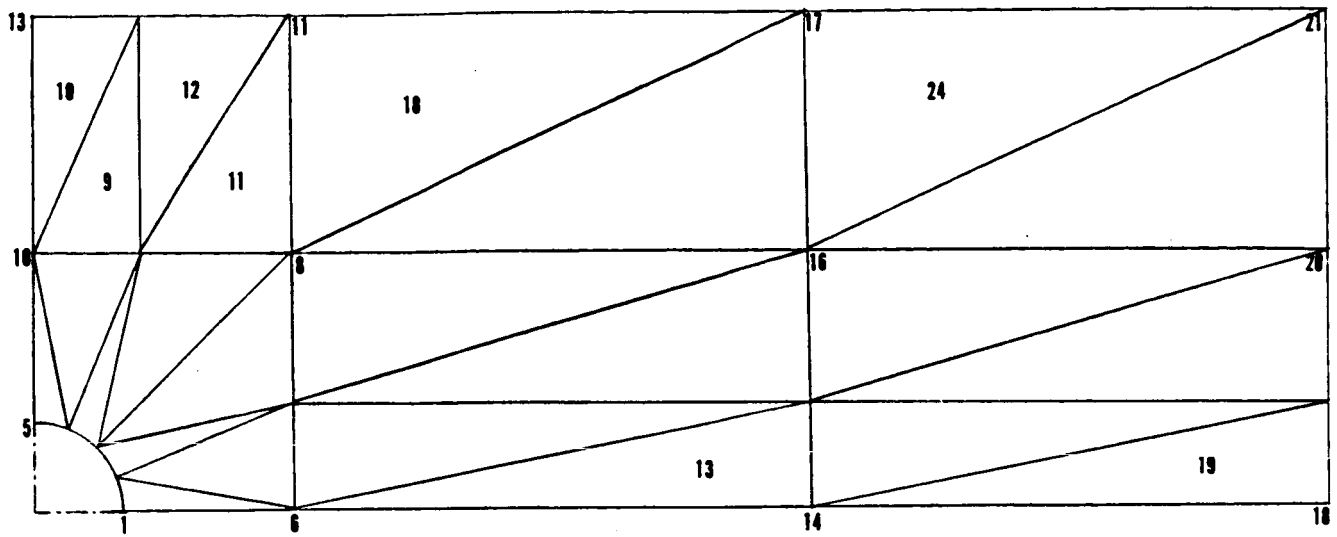


Figure 9. Discretization with 24 triangular elements



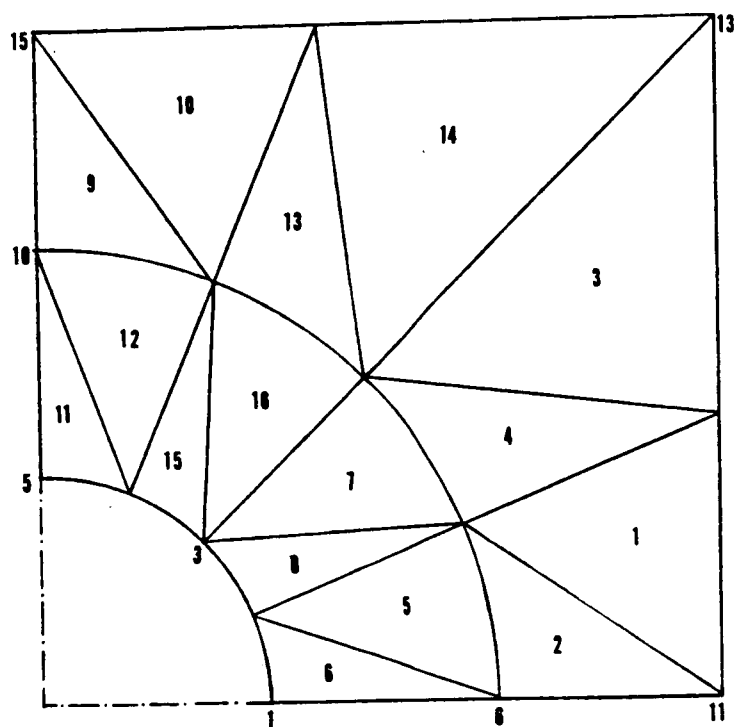
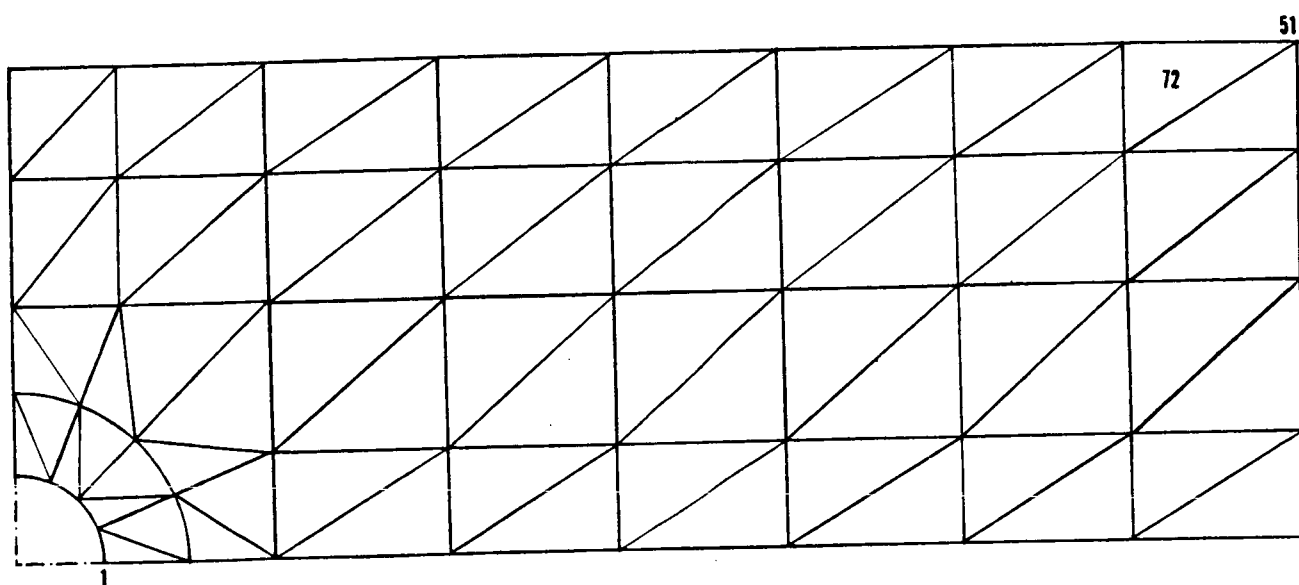


Figure 11. Discretization with 72 triangular elements

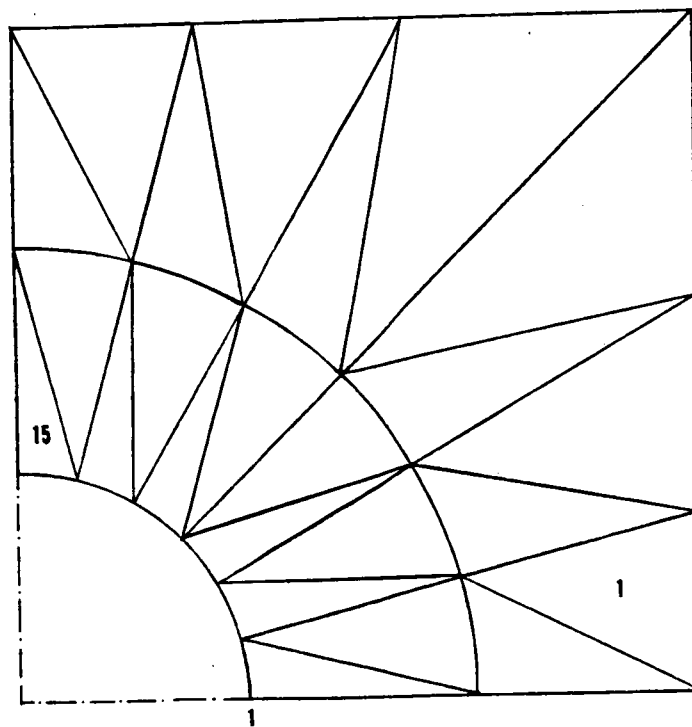
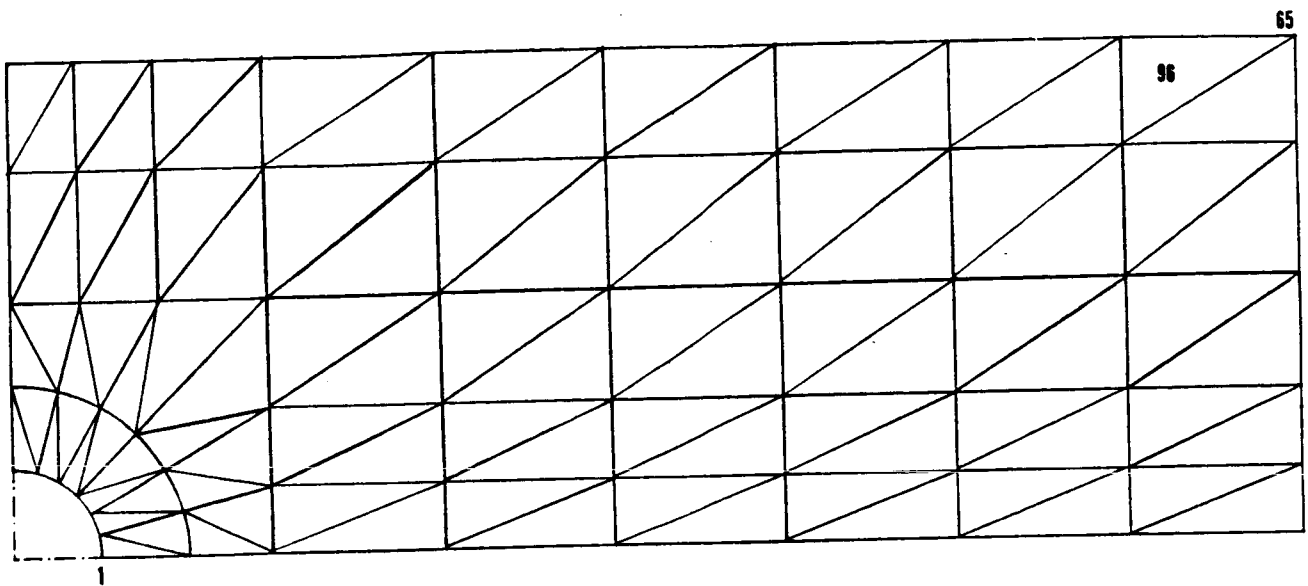


Figure 12. Discretization with 96 triangular elements

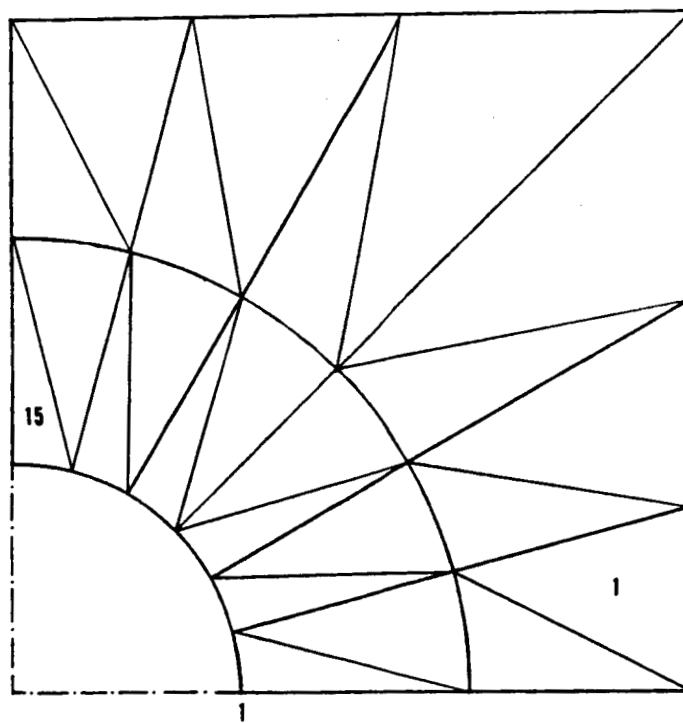
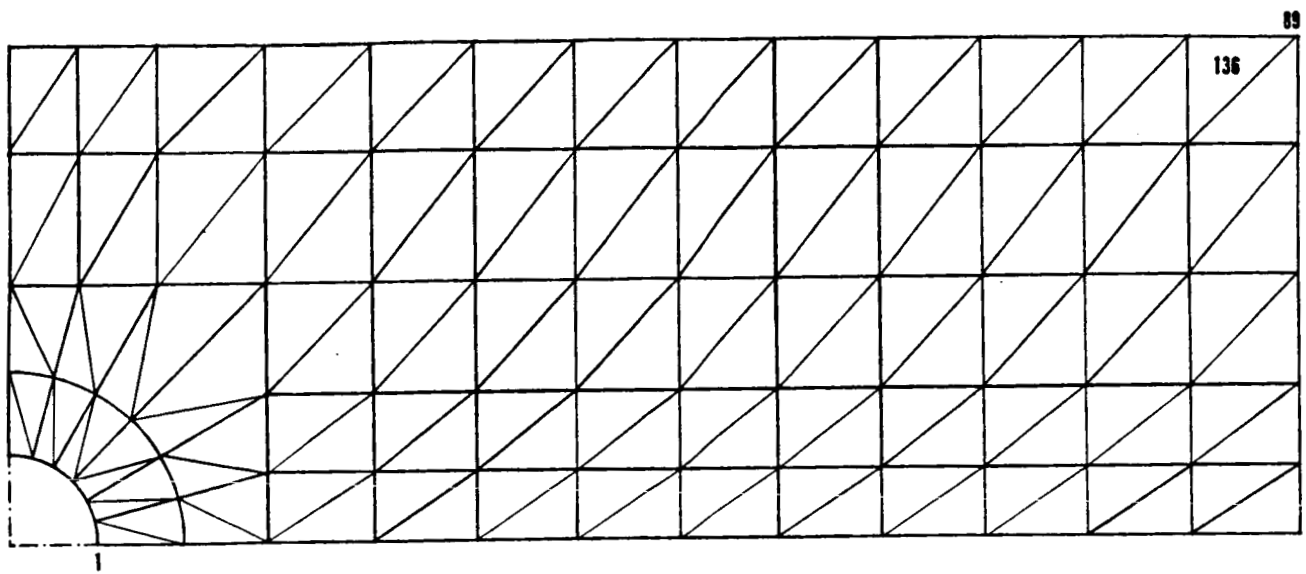


Figure 13. Discretization with 136 triangular elements

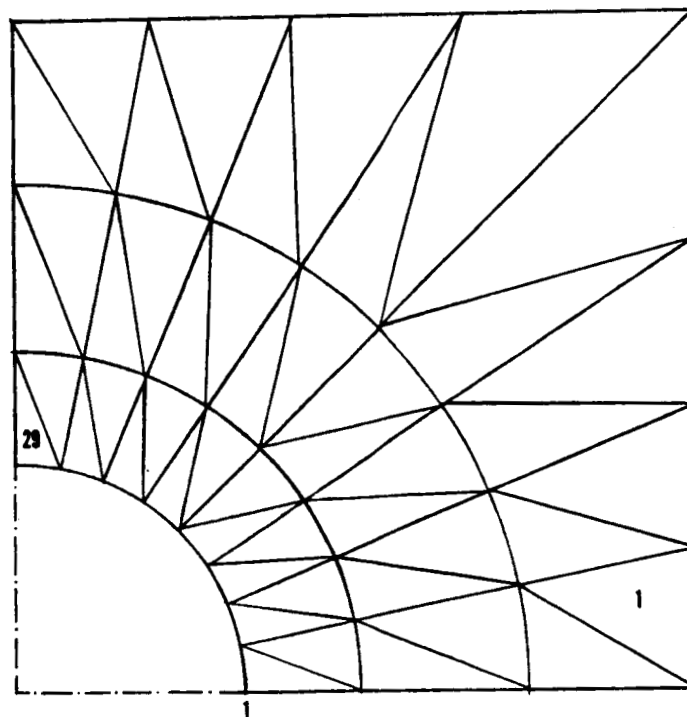
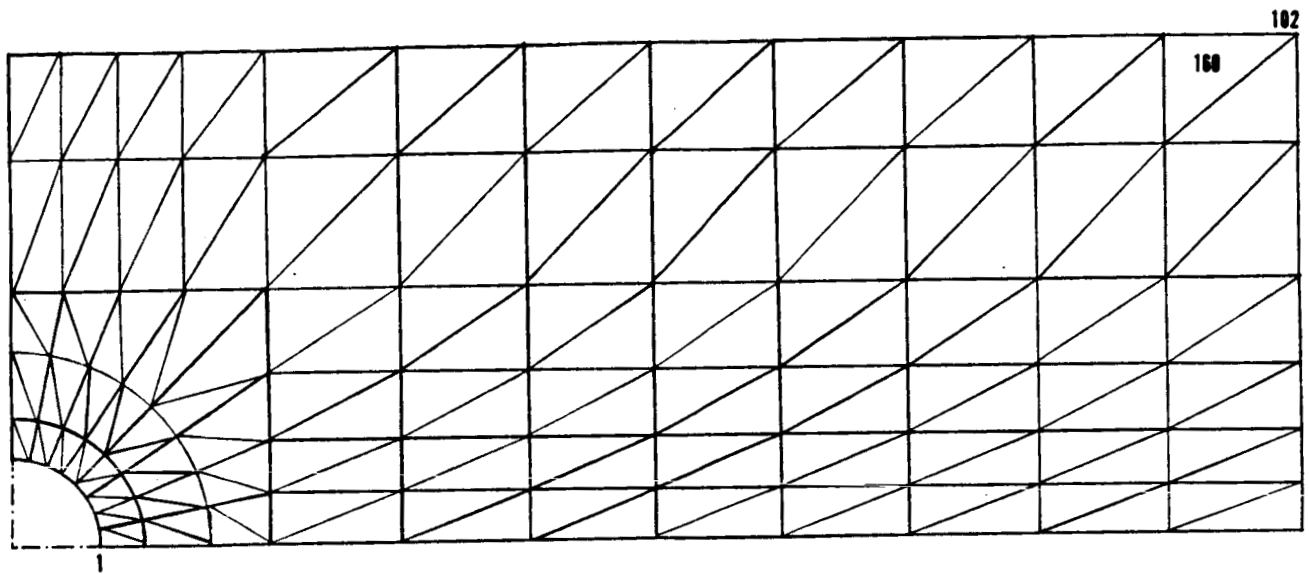


Figure 14. Discretization with 160 triangular elements

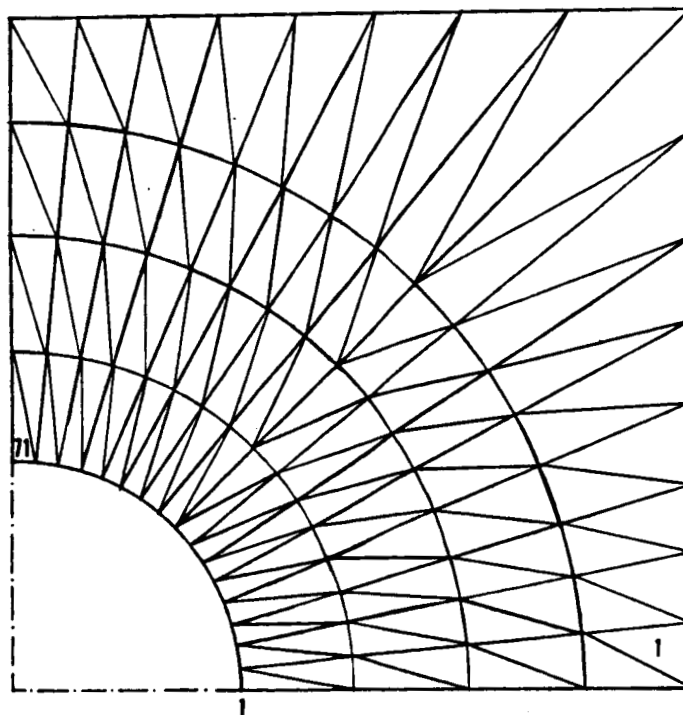
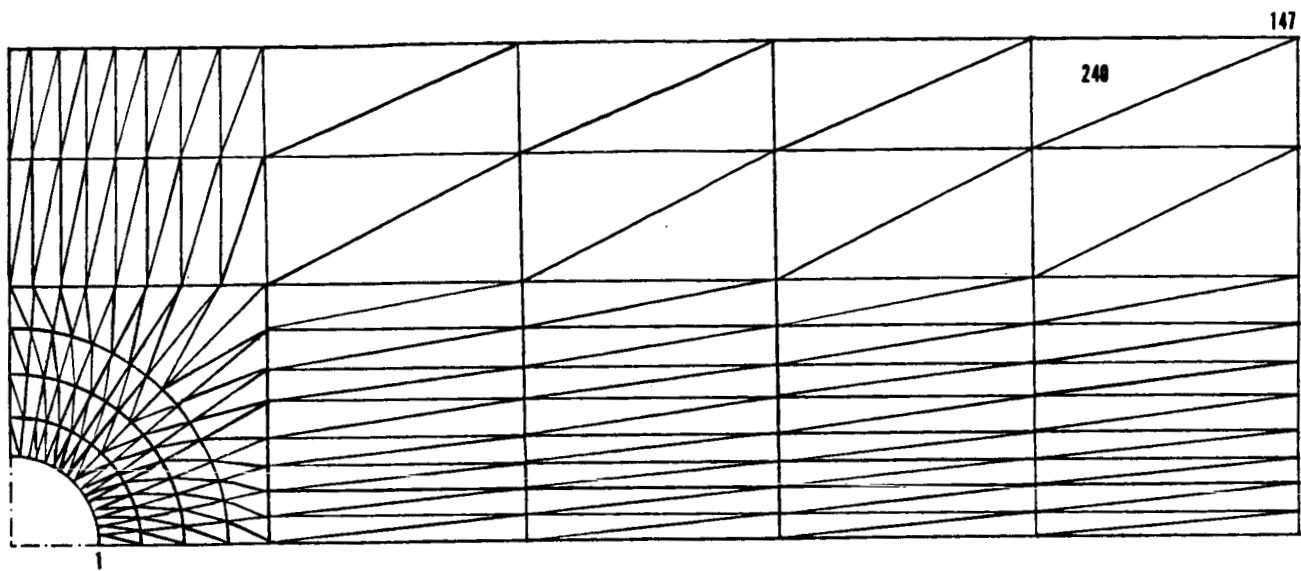


Figure 15. Discretization with 240 triangular elements



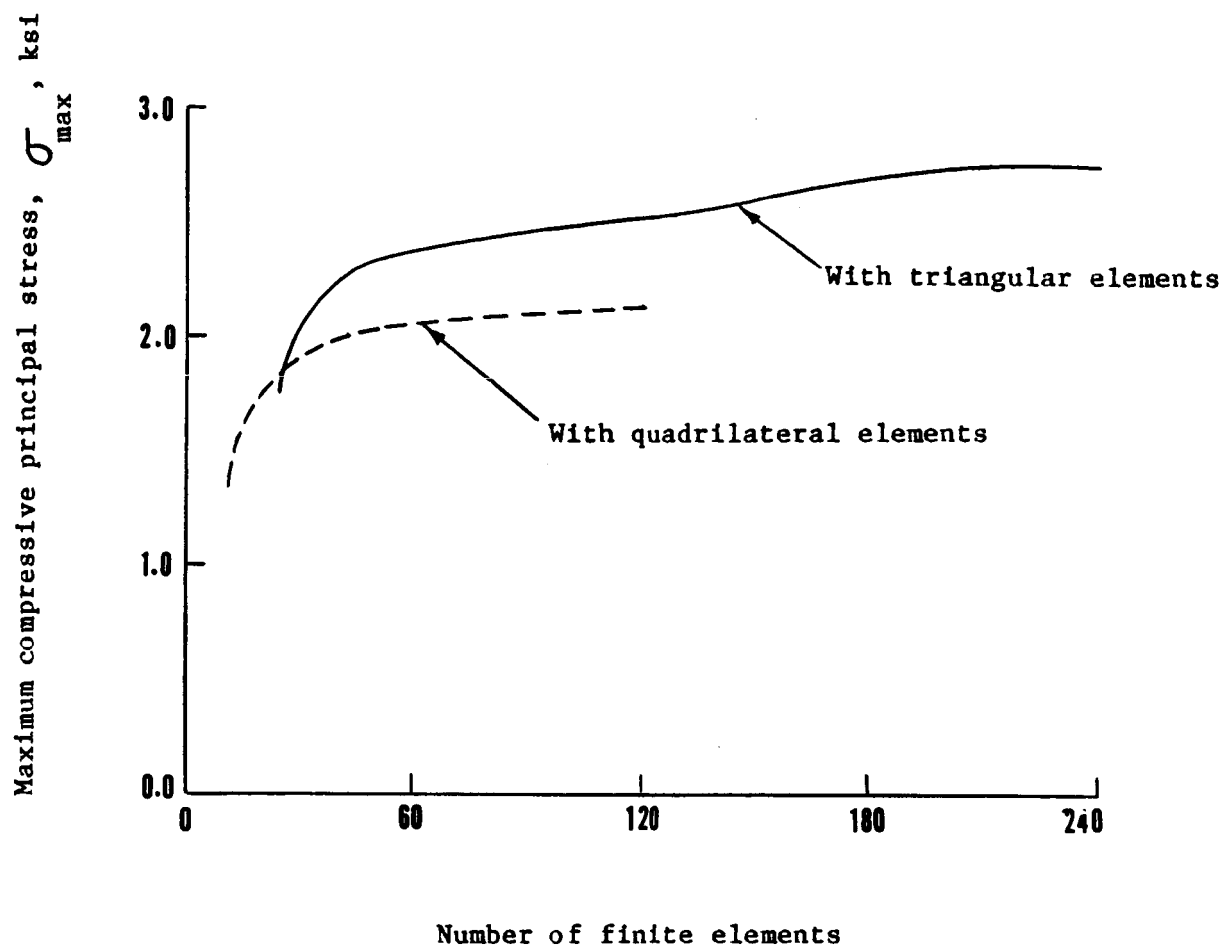


Figure 16. Maximum principal stress versus number of elements for isotropic panel

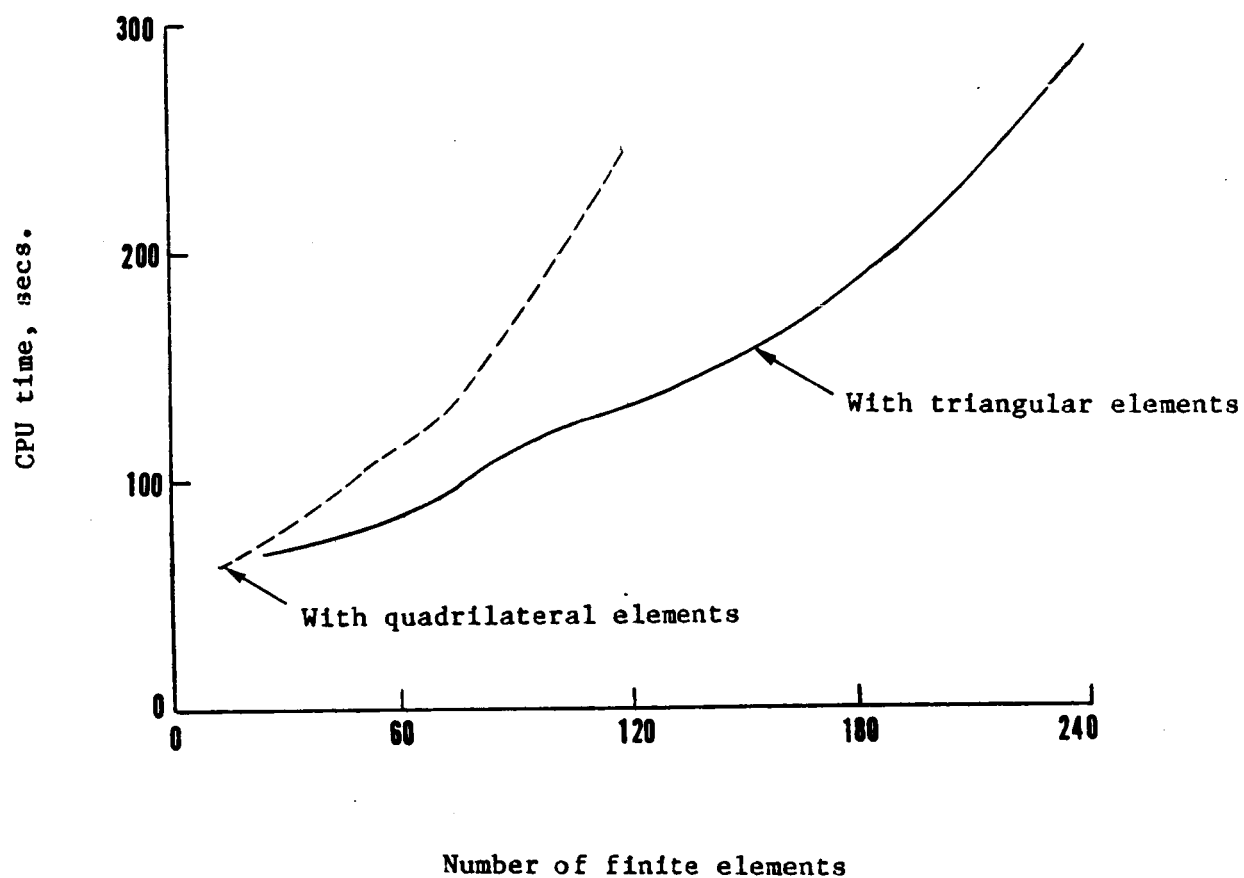


Figure 17. Computational time versus number of elements for isotropic panel

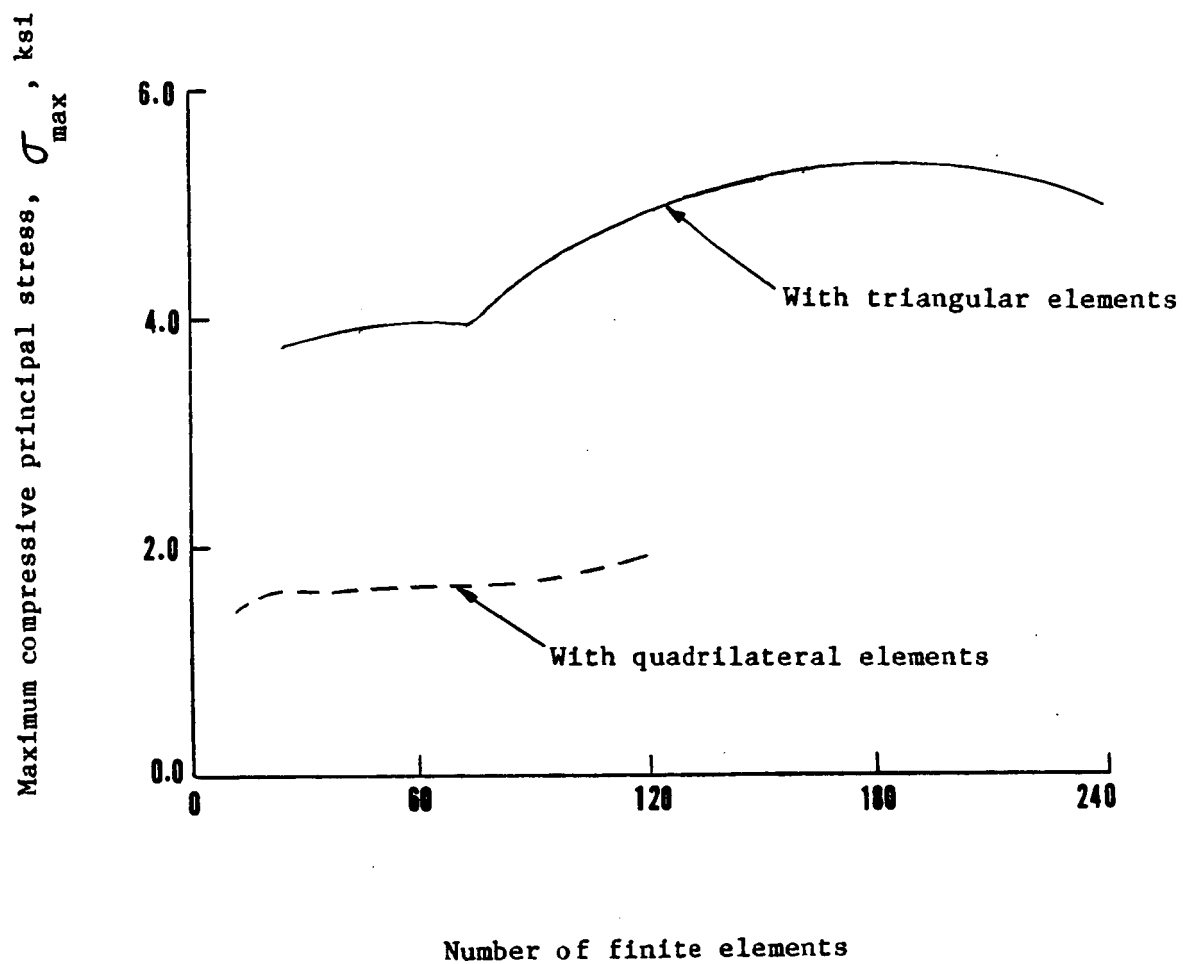


Figure 18. Maximum principal stress versus number of elements for orthotropic panel

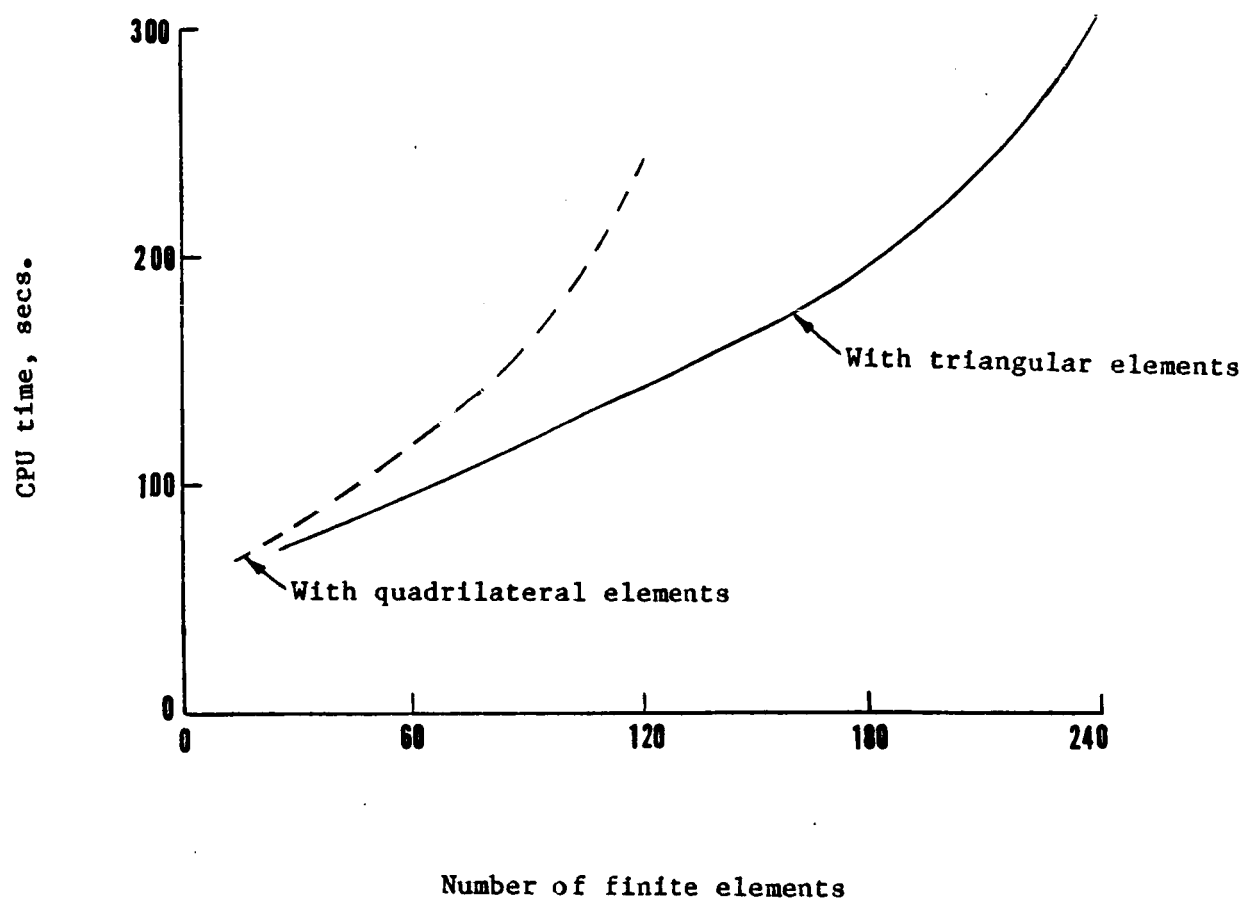


Figure 19. Computational time versus number of elements for orthotropic panel

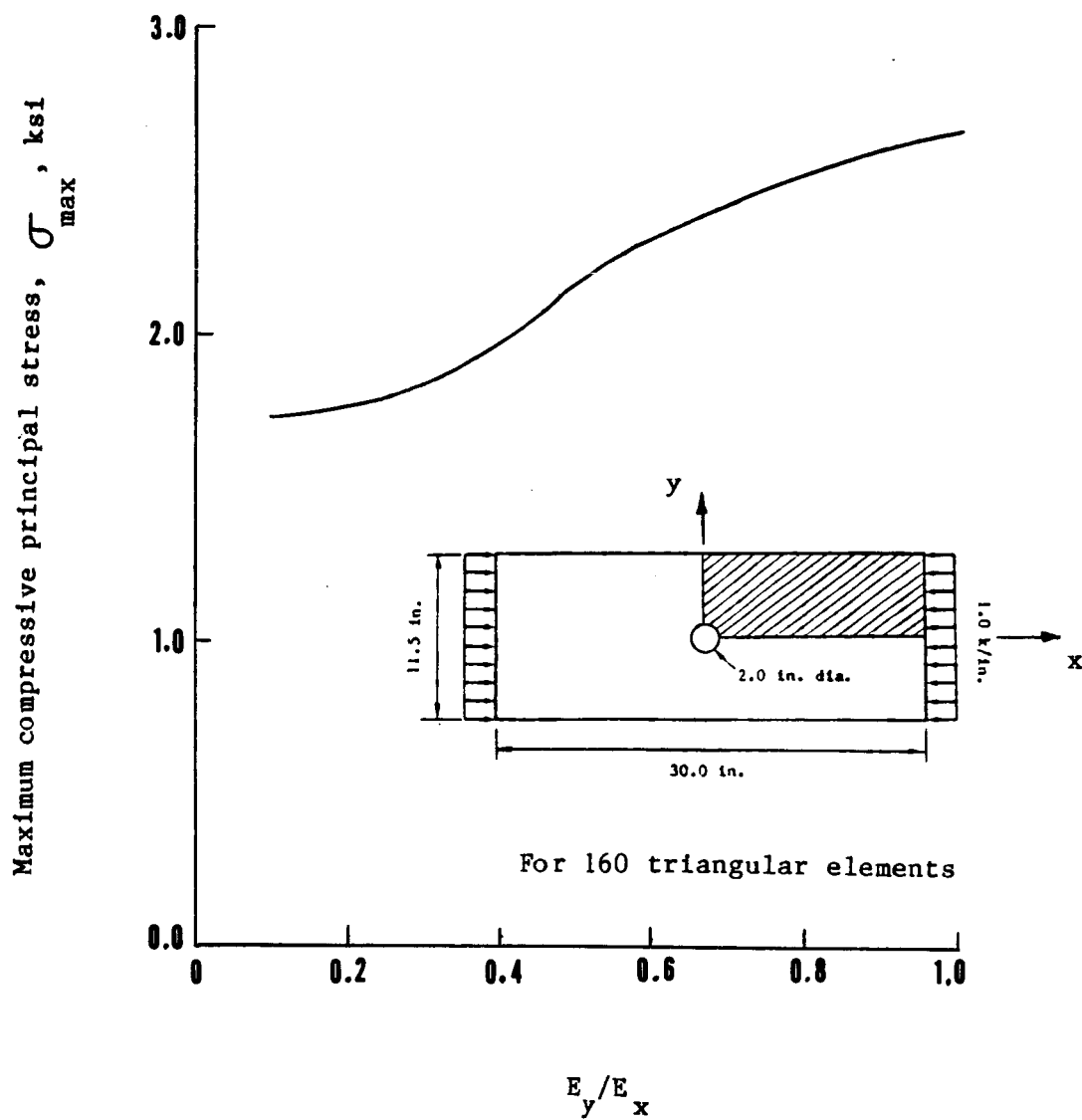


Figure 20. Maximum principal stress versus  $E_y/E_x$  ratio for orthotropic panel